THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA,

At its Sessions at Toronto,

JUNE 5-13, 1850.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

TORONTO:
1850.

Official Members of Synod and Committees

FOR 1850.

Rev. William Reid, A.M., *Moderator*,

Rev. William Rintoul, A.M., *Clerk of Synod.*

Rev. Alex. Gale, *Secretary to College Committee.*

Rev. Ralph Robb, Hamilton, *Convener of Home Mission Committee.*

Rev. George Cheyne, *Secretary to ditto.*

Samuel Spreull, Esq., Toronto, *Treasurer to Bursary Fund.*

John Redpath, Esq., Montreal, *Treasurer for Foreign and Jewish Missions of Free Church of Scotland.*

D. McLellan, Esq., Hamilton, *Treasurer to Synod's Home Mission Committee.*

John Burns, Esq., Toronto, *General Agent to the Synod, and Treasurer to the Synod Fund and College.*

PRINTED BY J. CLELAND, 62, YONGE STREET, TORONTO.

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

SESSION I.

At Toronto, and within Knox's Church there, the fifth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty years, the which day the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met, according to appointment; and, after a Sermon by Dr. Willis, *Moderator,* from Matthew, xxviii. 18, 19, 20, was constituted for business.

Presbytery Rolls were given in, and the Synod Roll was made up and read, and the Members present answered to their names.

[*The names of those who were present at this or any of the subsequent Sessions are marked with an asterisk.*]

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*William Macalister		*Port Sarnia.*
*Donald Mackenzie	William McKenzie	*Zorra.*
Daniel Allan		*North Easthope.*
William Graham		*Tuckersmith.*
*Robert Peden		*Amherstburgh.*
William R. Sutherland	James Allen	*Ekfrid and Mosa.*
*Angus McColl	*Donald McLellan	*Chatham and Tilbury.*
*Robert Wallace		*Ingersoll.*
Lachlan McPherson	James Bremner	*Williams and Lobo.*
*William S. Ball	*William Burgess	*Woodstock.*
John Frazer		*Fingal and St. Thomas.*
	*William Clark	*London.*
		Aldborough.
		Howard.
		St. Andrews.
		Stratford.
		Kincardine.
		Ashfield.
		Warwick.
		Caradoc.
		Adelaide.

Angus McColl, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Daniel Eastman		*Grimsby.*
Andrew Ferrier, D.D.	John Stark	*Caledonia.*
*Ralph Robb	*James Osborne	*Hamilton.*
*George Cheyne,	*George Young	*Saltfleet, &c.*
*Robert Lindsay	Murdoch McRae	*Ayr.*
*Mark Y. Stark,	William Miller	*Dundas, &c.*
*John Bayne	*George Davidson	*Galt.*
*George Smellie	*A. D. Ferrier	*Fergus.*
William Meldrum		*Puslinch.*
*Alexander McLean	*Hugh Thomson	*Wellington Square.*
John McKinnon		*Sydenham.*
*John G. Macgregor		*Guelph.*
	*George Blain	*Niagara, &c.*
		Woolwich.
		Dunnville and Wellandport.
		Flamboro' West.
		Walpole.
		Thorold, &c.
		Port Dover, &c.
James Smith, James Cairncross	Without pastoral charge.	

M. Y. STARK, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*Robert Burns, D.D.	*Donald Elder	*Toronto, Knox's Church.*
*Duncan McMillan	*John McMillan	*Caledon and Erin.*
*Thomas Lowry		*Barrie and Innisfil.*
*Thomas Wightman	*Alexander Gibb	*York Mills and Scarboro'.*
*Andrew T. Holmes	*Samuel Wallace	*Chinguacousy & E. Toronto.*
*Peter Gray	*James Frazer	*Norval and Esquesing.*
*James Boyd	*George Brodie	*Markham.*
*James Nisbet	*Matthew Barclay	*Oakville & Trafalgar Mills.*
	*Isaac Weylie	*Streetsville.*
		Acton and Nassagaweya.
		Vaughan and King.
		West Gwillimbury.
		Thorah and Eldon.
	*William Heron	*Brock, Reach, &c.*
		Mono and Essa.
		Euphrasia and St. Vincent.
		Humber and Weston.

MINISTERS WITHOUT PASTORAL CHARGE.

*Michael Willis, D.D., Professor of Theology, Knox's College.
*Henry Esson, Professor of Moral Philosophy, " "
William Lyall, Acting Prof. Mental Training " "
*James Harris.
*William Rintoul, Clerk of Synod.
*Alexander Gale, Principal of Toronto Academy.

THOMAS WIGHTMAN, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
James Douglass	G Greer	*South Cavan.*
*Donald McLeod	*C. H. Morgan	*Cobourg.*
*John M. Roger	*James Hall	*Peterboro'.*
*J.W. Smith	*W. Litster	*Grafton and Colborne.*
	*R. Harstone	*Baltimore and Cold Springs.*
	*James Fife	*Otanabee.*
		Darlington.

JOHN W. SMITH, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*James Rogers	Andrew Patterson	*Demorestville.*
*Henry Gordon	Hon. J. McDonald	*Gananoque.*
*William Reid	Francis Anderson	*Picton.*
*Robert Reid		*Kingston, Brock Street.*
*William Gregg	Joseph Keith	*Belleville.*
*Robert F. Burns	James Stewart	*Kingston, Chalmers' Church*
*Andrew Hudson		*Huntingdon & Tyendenaga.*
		Madoc.
		Ballinahinch.
		Shibley's Corner.
		Storrington.

WILLIAM GREGG, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William Smart		
Robert Boyd	John Emberson	*Prescott.*
James Geggie	John Millar	*Spencerville.*
*John McMurray	R. Edmondson, M. D.	*Brockville.*
*William John Macdowell	Alexander Inglis	*South Gower.*
		Bellamyville.
		Burritt's Rapids.
		Merrickville.
		Yonge.
		North Gower.

JAMES GEGGIE, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William Lochead	Thomas Duncan	*Osgoode and Gloucester.*
*Simon C. Fraser	James Carmichael	*MacNab.*
*Thomas Wardrope	Alexander Kennedy	*Bytown.*
John Corbett	James Pritchard	*Wakefield.*
*James B. Duncan	*Thomas Nicol	*Perth.*
	William Cuthbertson	*Dalhousie.*
	James Yule	*Ramsay.*
	Niel Stewart	*Beckwith.*
	Robert Kennedy	*Goulbourne.*
	Alexander Moffatt	*Pembroke.*
	William King	*Bristol.*
James Finlay, *Andrew Melville	Ordained Missionaries.	

THOMAS WARDROPE, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
David Black.....	John Hettrick.....	*St. Therese.*
Thomas Henry.....		*Lachute.*
Daniel Clark.....		*Indian Lands.*
		St. Gabriel Street, Montreal
	John Redpath.....	*Cote Street, Montreal.*
		St. John's, Quebec.
		Leeds and Inverness.
		Melbourne.
		North Georgetown.
		English River.
		Portneuf.
		Cornwall and Martintown.
		Vankleek Hill.
		Lochiel.
		Saint Eustache and Grande Freniere.
		Beachridge.
		Henryville.

THOMAS HENRY, *Presbytery Clerk.*

On motion made and seconded, the Rev. W. Reid, A. M., was unanimously elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

The Synod appointed the following Committee on Bills and Overtures, viz. :—The Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Mr. Ralph Robb, Mr. M. Y. Stark, Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Mr. John M. Roger, Mr. John W. Smith, Mr. Wm. Gregg, Mr. Robert F. Burns, Mr. John McMurray, Mr. Andrew Melville, Mr. Donald McKenzie, Mr. Wm. S. Ball, Ministers; Mr. George Davidson, Mr. Donald Elder, Mr. C. H. Morgan, Mr. Wm. Clark, Elders; with instructions to meet to-morrow, at Nine o'clock, a. m., and by adjournment as they shall see fit; and it was ordered, that all overtures, references, and appeals, should be lodged with the Clerk, for being submitted to said Committee without delay.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed that the thanks of the Synod should be tendered to Dr. Willis, for his excellent Discourse.

The thanks of the Synod were tendered accordingly.

It was agreed that Presbyteries be authorised to meet in Toronto, during the present sessions of Synod, for any competent business.

The Synod appointed the following Committee for arranging the hours for the sessions of the Synod, to report at the

session to-morrow forenoon, viz. :—Dr. Willis, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Smellie, Ministers; Messrs. J. Hall, McMillan, and J. Stewart, Elders.

The Synod adjourned, to meet to-morrow at Eleven o'clock a. m., for Devotional Exercises, to be constituted for business at Twelve o'clock, noon.

Closed with prayer.

SESSION II.

TORONTO,

Thursday, 6th June, 1850, 11 *o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod met according to adjournment, and engaged in devotional exercises.

At Twelve o'clock, noon, the Synod was constituted, with prayer, for business.

The Roll was called, and the names of members who had arrived since last meeting were marked.

The Minutes of the former session were read and sustained.

Mr. J. C. Fairbairn, minister of the Free Church, Allanton, Scotland, and now supplying in the Coté Street Church, Montreal, being present, was introduced to the Synod, and admitted to take part in the proceedings.

Mr. Thomas McPherson, an ordained Missionary from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and now labouring within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hamilton, was also invited to sit with the Synod.

Dr. Willis, on behalf of the Committee on arrangements of the Sessions of the Synod, gave in a Report, which was read and sustained, and the Synod, in terms of the recommendation of the same,

Resolved—That the Synod meet each day for business at two o'clock, and close at five, and meet again at seven o'clock in the evening; the forenoons to be devoted to Committees, private Conferences of Synod, or meetings of Presbyteries, excepting that, on Saturday the forenoon be given to business, beginning at half-past nine. Devotional services one hour each day, or half an hour at each Session; also Saturday afternoon and Monday forenoon, special devotions connected with the communion on the Lord's day.

The Synod appointed the following Committees to revise the Records of Presbyteries, with instructions to report on Monday, viz :

On the Records of the Presbytery of

Toronto,—Mr. John M. Roger, Mr. George Smellie, ministers, and Mr. C. H. Morgan, elder.

Hamilton,—Mr. Donald McLeod, Mr. Peter Gray, ministers, and Mr. Robert Harstone, elder.

Cobourg,—Mr. Thomas Wightman, Mr. Alexander Maclean, ministers; Mr. Donald McLellan, elder.

Kingston,—Mr. John McGregor, Mr Thomas Lowrie, ministers; Mr. John McMillan, elder.

London,—Mr. Mark Y. Stark, Mr. Duncan McMillan, ministers; Mr. A. D. Ferrier, elder.

Brockville,—Mr. Donald McKenzie, Mr. James Boyd, ministers; Mr. James Fife, elder.

Montreal,—Mr. Ralph Robb, Mr. James Nisbet, ministers; Mr James Hall, elder.

Perth,—Mr. R. F. Burns, Mr. John McMurray, ministers; Mr. William Litster, elder.

The Records of the Commission for the last year were read.

The following Committee was appointed to revise the Records of the Synod and Commission, viz.:—Mr. Bayne, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Smellie, Mr. Duncan, ministers; Mr. Isaac Weylie, Mr. Thomas Nicol, elders—to report on Monday next.

At half-past One o'clock, P. M., the Synod agreed to adjourn until Three o'clock, P. M.

The Synod was closed with the blessing.

SESSION III.

TORONTO,

Thursday, 6th June, 1850, *Three o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer and praise.

The Minutes of last Session were read and sustained.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures gave in a Report, which was sustained.

The Synod took up an Overture from the Presbytery of Kingston, overturing the Synod to take the subject of a Book of Discipline into their early consideration, and take measures for the speedy preparation of such a book.

Mr. Gordon was heard on the subject of the Overture. After deliberation, the Synod agreed to refer the Overture to the following Committee, viz.:—Mr. Smellie. Mr. Gordon, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Mr. Lowry, Ministers; Mr. Davidson, Mr. Blain, Mr. McLellan, Elders; with instructions to give the same their mature consideration, and report on Tuesday next.

The Synod took up an Overture from various members of Synod, on the support of the Ministry.

The Synod had conference on the subject of the Overture, and it was agreed that the same should be continued for one hour, at the session in the evening.

The Synod was closed with prayer.

SESSION IV.

TORONTO,

Thursday, 6th June, 1850, *Seven o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer.

The Minutes of the Afternoon Session were read and sustained.

The Synod resumed the conference on the support of the Ministry. After discussion, it was moved by Dr. Willis, and seconded by Mr. Roger,—

That, impressed with the urgent necessity of a Fund for the assisting of weaker congregations, a Committee be appointed to inquire into the causes of the failure of the scheme lately attempted to be worked, and which was so far in operation for the sustentation of the Ministry among us; and to consider if a scheme, in its nature supplementary, might not with advantage be substituted. Also, whether a part of the late sustentation plan might not be retained in connection with a supplementary one.

It was thereafter moved in amendment, by Mr. Bain, and seconded by Mr. McGregor.

That the matter be left in the hands of Presbyteries, according to the deliverance of last Synod.

After reasoning, a vote was called for, when it was agreed that the vote should be motion or amendment; and on the roll being called, there voted

For the motion 31
For the amendment 18

The motion was accordingly declared to be carried, and in terms of the same, the following Committee was appointed, viz.:

Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Mr. Gale, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Roger, Mr. Gordon, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Rintoul, Mr. Wardrope, Mr. Gregg, ministers; Mr. Hall, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Elder, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Nicol, elders.

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of Synod be held in the City of Kingston, on the first Wednesday of June, 1851 years, to be opened with Sermon by the Moderator, at Eleven o'clock, a. m.; and the Presbytery of Kingston are instructed to make such arrangements for the Meeting and the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, on the occasion, as they may see fit.

It was agreed that the Committee on Bills and Overtures should meet to-morrow, at Nine o'clock. A. M.; that the Synod be opened with devotional exercises at Eleven o'clock: and that the Overture on Baptism, transmitted by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, be made the subject of conference at half-past Eleven o'clock, A. M.; also, that the Overture for issuing a recommendation to Congregations to petition the Legislature respecting the Clergy Reserves, deferred by last Synod for the consideration of this Synod, should be taken up on the afternoon of to-morrow.

The Synod was then closed with prayer.

SESSION V.

TORONTO,

Friday, 7th June, 1850, *Eleven o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod met and engaged in devotional exercises, and thereafter was constituted for business.

The Minutes of the former session were read.

A Report from the Committee of Bills and Overtures was read, and the same was sustained.

The Overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton, on Baptism, having been read, was made the subject of conference.

It was agreed to take up the consideration of the Overture in the afternoon.

The Synod appointed Mr. Mark Y. Stark, Mr. Wm. Gregg, Ministers; and Mr. George Davidson, Mr. A. D. Ferrier, and Mr. George Blain, Elders; a Committee on Finance, to examine the public accounts and report on the various funds of the Church; Mr. Davidson convener.

The Treasurers of the various Funds were required to hand in to the Committee their respective books and accounts without delay.

The Synod was closed with the blessing.

SESSION VI.

TORONTO,

Friday, 7th June, 1850, *Two o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the Overture on Baptism,—

When, after deliberation, the Synod appointed Dr. Willls, Mr. Stark, Mr. Bayne, Mr. McKenzie, Ministers; Mr. Donald McLellan, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Clark, Elders; a Committee to draft a Minute on the subject of Baptism, embodying the views agreed on in the Conference, for the adoption of the Synod, and such as may be read by Ministers to their Congregations. Mr. Stark convener.

The Committee to report on Tuesday.

The Synod took up the consideration of a memorial in behalf of the widow of the late lamented Joseph Harris, minister of the church at Niagara, from a Committee in that town, for making provision for the destitute family of Mr. Harris.

Mr. Blain, Elder, from Niagara, was heard in support of the memorial, and gave an interesting account of the esteem and affection with which the memory of Mr. Harris was cherished in the congregation over which he had affectionately and faithfully laboured, and of the exertions that were being made for raising a fund for the support of the widow and children of the deceased.

Mr. Robb, who had attended Mr. Harris on his death-bed, gave some interesting accounts of the peace and hope with which Mr. Harris closed his earthly career, when in attendance on a meeting of Presbytery at Hamilton.

Other members addressed the Court to the same tenor, when it was

Resolved—That Dr. Willis and Dr. Burns be appointed to draft a Resolution, expressive of the solemn felings of the Synod, on the death of Mr. Harris and of their sympathy with the bereaved family—calling on the ministers and members

of the Church, to co-operate with the Committee in Niagara, for raising a fund for the relief of said family, expressive, at the same time, of the gratification with which the Synod has learned of the liberality of the Congregation at Niagara.

The Synod took up an Overture from several members of the Court, calling for a declaration of the Synod respecting the status of Ministers from the Free Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, when deputed to this Church.

The Synod had lengthened reasoning on the subject, when it was moved by Dr. Burns, and seconded by Dr. Willis,

That the Synod approve the Overture; and, in accordance with the recommendation of the same, declare that any Minister, or Professor of Theology, of the Free Church of Scotland, or of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, who shall have been regularly deputed by either of said Churches, in compliance with the oft-repeated appeals of this Church, to visit this country, and to supply vacant Churches, or engage in Collegiate or Missionary service within the bounds of this Church, for a limited period, shall be recognized, for the time being, as a member of the Presbytery within whose bounds he may be labouring; and also of the Synod, when in attendance on the sessions of the same, and be entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership.

It was then moved in amendment by Mr. Gregg, seconded by Mr. McMurray,

That Mr. J. C. Fairbairn, already admitted to a seat with this Synod, be admitted for the time, to all the privileges of membership in the same.

After reasoning, a vote was called for; and it was agreed that the question should be motion or amendment; when, on the Roll being called, there voted for the motion, 42; for the amendment, 10; the Synod accordingly enact and declare in terms of the motion.

The name of Mr. Fairbairn was then added to the Roll of the Presbytery of Montreal, to remain on the same during the period of his services within that Presbytery.

It was agreed that the Overtures respecting the Rectories and Clergy Reserves, be taken up in the evening.

The Synod was closed with prayer.

SESSION VII.

TORONTO,

Friday, 7th June, Seven o'clock, P.M.

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer.

The Minutes of the Afternoon Session were read.

The Synod called for Overtures on the Clergy Reserves, when there was read, the Overture deferred by last Synod for the consideration of this present Synod; also, an Overture from several members of the Court, calling on the Synod to conjoin the consideration of the Clergy Reserves with that of the Rectories, and for the Synod to petition the Legislature for the abolition of both Rectories and Reserves. The Synod took up the consideration of the two Overtures conjointly.

Dr. Burns was heard in behalf of the Overtures, and submitted a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Rintoul.

Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Ferrier, moved an amendment, to the following tenor;—

That, inasmuch as this Synod has declared, in the Resolutions of 1848, that, as a Church, it has relieved itself from any ecclesiastical connexion with the Clergy Reserve Fund; and, inasmuch as the question of the Clergy Reserves and Rectories involves the discussion of political questions now agitating the public mind in this Province—this Synod, as a Court of Christ, now met to deliberate on spiritual matters, dismiss this *questio vexata*, convinced that any further discussion of the question in this Synod would necessarily involve this Church in all the evils of a political controversy.

Dr. Willis also moved an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. McDowell.

After lengthened discussion, it was agreed to refer the original motion and the amendment of Dr. Willis to the following Committee, viz.:—Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Roger, Mr. Smith, ministers; Mr. Davidson, Mr. Heron, elders; with instructions to prepare a draft of a motion, to be submitted to the Synod on Monday next, and discussed and decided on with Mr. McMurray's amendment.

The Synod was closed with the blessing.

SESSION VIII.

TORONTO,

Saturday, 8th June, 1850, *Eleven o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod met, and engaged in Devotional Exercises, and thereafter was constituted for business.

The minutes of the former Session were read.

A report was given in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, which was sustained.

On the request of Mr. McLean, Mr. Holmes, minister, and Mr. Wallace, elder, were added to the Committee on the Records of the Presbytery of Cobourg.

The Presbytery of Toronto applied for permission to take Mr. Alexander Cameron, and Mr. Geo. Jamieson, students, on trials for license:—satisfactory evidence having been given of their having attended the usual curriculum of study in Knox's College, and their having passed through the preliminary trials with acceptance, permission was granted by the Synod.

Similar applications were made by the Presbyteries of Perth and Hamilton, respectively, in behalf of Mr. John Gourlay, and Mr. Andrew Hudson, students from Knox's College, and the Synod having had like satisfaction in regard to their preliminary trials and curriculum of study, granted permission.

The Synod took up the complaint of Donald McIntyre, of Mosa, against the deliverance of the Presbytery of London, in the case as remitted to said Presbytery at the last meeting of Synod. After deliberation, the Synod, in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, agreed to refer the case to the following Committee, viz:—

Dr. Burns, (convener,) Mr. Smellie, Mr. Fraser, ministers; Mr. Davidson, Mr. Elder, elders, with instructions to report a deliverance in the matter.

Dr. Willis submitted a draft of a minute respecting the late Mr. Joseph Harris, minister at Niagara—the same was read and approved of, and it was agreed that it should be embodied and transmitted in a letter to the widow and congregation who mourn his loss. The tenor whereof follows:—

The Synod received with much concern and emotion, the tidings of the decease of their esteemed brother in the Lord, the Rev. Mr. Harris, so recently admitted among them as a fellow labourer in the Gospel.

It was with deep interest that they listened to the relation of some particulars in the history of their lamented friend, brought under their attention by individual members of Synod, who had best known his manner of life, the multiplicity of his labours in various parts of the world in the Christian cause, and the self-denying sacrifices by which, both he and his partner in life, had by grace been enabled to manifest their love to Christ, and their concern for the salvation of immortal souls.

The Synod express their respectful sympathy with the mourning family, in particular with their bereaved sister in the Lord, widowed by this painful stroke, and deprived of the presence and protection, in a land comparatively of strangers, of one so justly endeared to her.

They sympathise at the same time in the joyful assurance which the remembrance of his latest and dying testimony must inspire, as connected with the devotedness of his life to the service of the Saviour, that our beloved brother and fellow labourer has entered into the joys of his Lord and received the crown of glory promised to the faithful.

The Synod sympathise also with the afflicted and bereaved flock, and assure them of their interest in their spiritual welfare: And, delighted to recognise the liberality with which they have already provided against the worldly inconveniencies that might have followed from the death of their beloved Pastor to his suddenly bereaved family,—the Synod pledge themselves to forward the laudable design of increasing the provision so far already made with this view, by all the means in their power. It is a pleasing and interesting proof of the more than ordinary fidelity and affectionate care of their spiritual interests manifested by their late Pastor, that, in the course of so brief a ministry he had secured such a place in their hearts; and the Synod fondly hope that the remembrance of his ways in Christ, and of the good word of God spoken by him, may subserve a valuable practical effect in all the families of the congregation—inducing them to follow his faith, and to seek in saving union and communion with the Master whom he served, what will be their only effectual support and solace in life and death, as it also constitutes the fruit which every faithful servant of the Lord most of all would desire, as the recompence of his labours and sacrifices.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed,

That contributions should be made throughout all the congregations of the Synod, in aid of the family of the late Mr. Harris, and that Dr. Burns, Mr. Robb, ministers; Mr. McLellan, Mr. Elder, Mr. Osborne, and Mr. Blain, elders, be a Committee for attending to this matter, with instructions to co-operate with the Committee already formed in the town of Niagara, for the aid of the family of the late Mr. Harris—Dr. Burns to be Convener, and Mr. Blain, Treasurer.

The Synod took up an application in behalf of Mr. McConechy, from elders, deacons, and members of the congregations of North Georgetown and English River, for consideration of his case, with a view to his being eventually reponed in the office of the Holy ministry.

The Synod agreed to refer the case to the following Committee, with instructions to examine into the same, and report at a future Session, viz:—

Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. McMurray, Mr. Macalister, ministers; Mr. Alexander Gibb, and Mr. Thomas Nicol, elders.

The Synod had read a draft of a Bill of Incorporation for Knox's College.

It was agreed that said draft should lie on the table, to be taken up in connection with the Report of the College Committee at a future Session.

There was read a letter from the Secretaries of the French Canadian Missionary Society, tendering the thanks of the Committee of said Society to the Synod, for the interest heretofore taken by this Church, in the prosperity of that Society, and requesting a continuance of the Synod's friendly co-operation. Several brethren addressed the House in behalf of the Society; and it was agreed that a collection in behalf of

the funds of said Society, should be one of the stated collections of the Church for the ensuing year.

There was read to the Synod an overture from the Presbytery of Perth, on the application of Mr. Porterfield, formerly a Baptist minister, to be received into this Church; Mr. Fraser and Mr. Duncan were heard for the Presbytery; Mr. Porterfield was also heard, and gave a full statement of his views. After lengthened discussion, it was agreed to refer the case to the following committee, viz:

Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Mr. Robb, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Fairbairn, ministers; Mr. Osborne and Mr. McLellan, elders; to report at a subsequent session.

It was agreed that the Committee of Bills and Overtures should meet on Monday, at nine o'clock, a. m.

The Synod agreed to meet for devotional exercises on Monday, at eleven o'clock, a. m., to be constituted for business at two, p. m.

SESSION IX.

TORONTO,

Monday, 10th June, 1850, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod, after devotional exercises in the forenoon, met for business, and was constituted.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures gave in a report, which was sustained.

On motion made and seconded, Mr. Angus Mackintosh and James Cairns, M. D., ordained missionaries, and Mr. Gilbert Bastedo, elder, were admitted to sit with the Synod.

The Synod took up a reference from the Presbytery of London, respecting the organization of a Gaelic congregation in Blandford, as referred to that Presbytery at last Synod, and requesting the sanction of the Synod to the erection of a place of worship in the township of Blandford. The Synod heard several members of the Presbytery of London on the subject, when, after deliberation, it was agreed that the request of the Presbytery be acceded to.

Mr. Burns gave in a report on the *Record*, which was read and sustained.

On motion made and seconded it was agreed,

That the thanks of the Synod be recorded to the Committee, and especially to Mr. Burns, who has acted as editor for the last year.

The following Committee was appointed for the ensuing year, viz:

Mr. Gale, (Convener) Prof. Esson, Mr. Robb, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Mr. Wightman, Mr. McLeod, ministers; Mr. Elder, Mr. McLellan, elders.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed, that the Statistical Returns be examined by a Committee, consisting of the Clerks of the several Presbyteries, Mr. Wightman to be Convener. The Committee to report on Wednesday.

The report of the Committee on the Synod Records, was read and approved of, and the Synod in conformity with the same, ordered said Records to be attested as carefully and orderly kept, and they were accordingly attested by the Moderator.

The report on the Records of the Commission was received, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Commission, find them correctly, and, upon the whole, carefully kept; but, with regard to the action of the Commission in the case of Dr. Ferrier, upon which they were empowered by the Synod to give a final deliverance, if they saw cause—they deem it their duty to submit to the Synod the following facts:—

1. It appears that a Committee was appointed by the Synod, at its last meeting, to confer with Dr. Ferrier, and to report to the Commission, who were empowered to act upon the information furnished by said Committee, or otherwise obtained by themselves.

2. From the Report of said Committee, it appears that they obtained no satisfaction from Dr. Ferrier, on the points about which they were to deal with him, but that, on the contrary, they felt it their duty to record their opinion that Dr. F. had not met them with the frankness and openness which they were entitled to expect. It appears, also, that after recording this opinion, an opportunity had been given to Dr. F. to meet with them, if he desired it, but that this offer was not accepted.

3. From the Minutes of Commission, it appears that Dr. F. was not present at their meeting, but communicated with them by letter, and that said letter contained the only *new* matter *on* which a decision in his case could be grounded.

4. From an examination of said letter, it appears that it did not even profess to contain any explanation on the views held by Dr. F. on the points about which the Synod had instructed the Committee above referred to, to deal with him, but referred, only to two points—first, the course which he (Dr. F.) expected the Synod to follow towards him—and, second, the course which he, if satisfied with the conduct of the Synod, intended to pursue towards them, amounting as it appears to us, to a demand for mutual forbearance.

5. From the decision come to by the Commision, and professedly grounded on this letter, it appears that the Commission construed this letter into a pledge from Dr. F., that he would not obtrude his views offensively on the Church, and resolved that such a pledge warranted them in putting an end to all further procedure in the case.

Lastly, it would appear that no means were taken to ascertain from Dr. F. how far he assented to the interpretation put upon his letter.

In submiting these facts,' the Committee do not contemplate that this Synod will review a decision which the Commission were empowered, if they saw cause, to make final. But with the view of preventing all mistakes as to the effect of the decision, it appears to them desirable, that the Synod should consider how far Dr. Ferrier can be held bound by an interpretation put upon his letter in his absence, which he might possibly plead was at variance with the tenor of that letter, and an interpretation to the correctness of which he has never been asked to assent, or whether something ought not yet to be done to ascertain how far Dr. F. assents to said interpretation.

After discussion, it was moved by Dr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Gordon,

That the Report be sustained and adopted, with the exception of the portion which refers to the deliverance of the Commission regarding Dr. Ferrier.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. McLeod,

That the Report of the Committee be sustained.

The vote was taken, when there voted for the motion, 12; for the amendment, 23; four declined voting.

The Records of Commission were ordered to be attested by the Moderator, in conformity with the Report.

The Synod was then closed with the blessing.

SESSION X.

TORONTO,

Monday, 10th June, 1850, *Seven o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with praise and prayer.

The minutes of the former Session were read.

The Synod took up the consideration of a reference from the Presbytery of London, respecting Mr. Robert Peden, minister at Amherstburgh, who has been found guilty, by his Presbytery, of holding opinions on fundamental truths, at variance with the standards of this Church.

Extracts from the Presbytery of London, exhibiting the case as proceeded in by them, were read.

Mr. Peden appeared for himself, and stated his views on the various doctrines charged on him in the libel, as unsound and heretical, at great length.

Some of these doctrines he admitted that he held.

Several members, including members of the Presbytery of London, addressed the house, when the following deliverance was adopted :—

The Synod find from Mr. Peden's own admission, that he holds some of the unsound and heretical doctrines charged upon him in the libel; and that, while he formally denies holding the others for which he has been tried by the Presbytery of London, his own address to the Synod furnishes but too good evidence for the conclusion, that he holds the others also. The Synod, yet, desiring to proceed in this case with affection and forbearance, appoint a Committee to meet with Mr. Peden, and endeavour to convince him of the unscripturalness and dangerous nature of the doctrines which he holds,—the Committee to report on Wednesday; and Mr. Peden not to be precluded from again addressing the Synod, if he shall desire so to do.

The Committee to be, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Mr. Robb, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Bayne, ministers; Mr. McLellan, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Ferrier, elders.

The Synod was then closed with the blessing.

SESSION XI.

TORONTO,

Tuesday, 11th June, 1850, *Eleven o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod, after Devotional Exercises, was constituted for business.

The minutes of the former Session were read.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures, gave in a Report, which was sustained.

The Synod agreed to hear Reports on Presbytery Records, before proceeding to Conference.

Reports on the Records of the Presbyteries of London, Hamilton, Toronto, Cobourg, Kingston, Brockville, Perth, Montreal, were read, and the same were sustained, and it was agreed that the Records should be attested in conformity with the several Reports.

The Synod proceeded to Conference on the Petition respecting Union among Presbyterians, and the Overture respecting the clauses of the standards which relate to the Civil Magistrate. Several members stated their views on the subject of the Petition and Overture.

The Conference to be resumed to-morrow forenoon.

Closed with the blessing.

SESSION XII.

TORONTO,

Tuesday, 11th June, 1850, Two o'clock, P.M.

The Synod met, and was constituted.

The minutes of last Session were read and sustained.

The Committee on the case of Donald McIntyre, complainant against the Presbytery of London, gave in a report, which was received and sustained; and the Synod, in conformity with the recommendation of the same, adopted the following deliverance:—

That the Presbytery of London appear to have paid all due attention to the charges brought against Mr. Sutherland by D. McIntyre, and had unanimously found them frivolous; that D. McIntyre had precipitately left the meeting of Presbytery, at which his case was under consideration, before its close, and that no advantage whatever had been taken of his ignorance of forms of Court; and that his conduct in the whole case is vexatious, and that he be admonished by the Moderator of Synod.

On Mr. McIntyre's name being called, it was found that he had left the Synod.

Dr. Burns, in name of the Committee for drafting a motion respecting the Clergy Reserves and Rectories, produced a draft, and moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that it be adopted as the deliverance of Synod.

The draft is as follows:—

The Synod, taking into consideration the manifold evils, both religious and social, which have resulted from the Clergy Reserve system in the Province—the glaring injustice, as well as impolicy, of an attempt to set up an exclusive Ecclesiastical Establishment, by means of Patented and Endowed Rectories—as also the iniquitous manner in which these Rectories were constituted, without the knowledge and against the mind of the Province at large—resolve to memorialise the Government and the Legislature of Canada, to the effect, that they will be pleased to adopt immediate measures for the appropriation of the Lands, at present held as Clergy Reserves and Rectory Endowments, to the purposes of Education.

The Synod would also desire, that in making such new appropriation, Academies, as well as Common Schools, may be included, and that in both, the Word of God shall be distinctly recognised as the basis, and as the guardian of education.

The Synod further recommend that similar memorials, or petitions, shall be presented by all the congregations under their charge; and they appoint a Committee to draft said Memorial, to present it to the Executive and Legislature, and to co-operate with other bodies in watching the progress of any public measures that may be devised for the successful prosecution of the great object of such memorial, and to report to next meeting of Synod. Committee—Dr Burns, convener; Mr. Gale, Mr Esson, Mr. Boyd of Markham, Mr. Wightman, ministers; Messrs. Osborne, McLellan and Heron, elders.

The amendment of Mr. McMurray, submitted at a former Session, was read, and, after discussion, on the calling of the Roll, there voted for the motion, 24; for the amendment, 2; 16 having declined to vote.

The motion was accordingly declared to be carried, and the Synod resolved in terms thereof, to petition the Legislature.

From this deliverance Mr. McMurray and Mr. Weylie dissented, for reasons to be afterwards given in.

The Committee appointed to confer with Mr. Porterfield, an applicant for admission to the ministry in this Church, gave in a Report, which was sustained, and in conformity with its recommendations, it was agreed

That Mr. Porterfield may be employed by the Home Mission Committee, within the bounds of the Presbytery where he may be residing, as a Missionary, or occasional labourer in the Ministry, and that he be recommended to attend one session at Knox's College.

At the request of the Presbytery of Brockville, Mr. Nisbet was appointed to act as assessor with the members of that Presbytery, in order to the Presbytery's being constituted for business during the Session of the Synod.

The Synod took up the reference from the Presbytery of Perth, in the case of Mr. W. G. Johnstone, minister at Ramsay, and suspended by said Presbytery, for contumacy, when libelled for lasciviousness.

The Synod, after hearing some of the members of the Presbytery of Perth, and considering the case, found that Mr. Johnstone, must be held to stand confessed of the sin libelled, and that the Presbytery might have proceeded to deprive him of the office of the ministry. But, inasmuch, as the Presbytery, for reasons which seem to be satisfactory, have thought it desirable, that the final sentence in the case should be given by the Synod, the Synod shall now depose the said Mr. W. G. Johnstone from the office of the Holy Ministry.

Before proceeding to the solemn act of deposition, the Synod engaged in prayer.

The Moderator then, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the sole Head and King of the Church, and in virtue of the power and authority committed by him to it, declared Mr. W. G. Johnstone to be deposed from the office of the Holy Ministry, and prohibited and discharged from exercising the same, or any part thereof, in all time coming.

It was agreed, that the Presbytery of Perth should take such steps, as to them might seem expedient, for giving pub-

licity to this sentence, with the view of preventing the said W. G. Johnstone from assuming any longer the standing of a minister of the gospel.

SESSION XIII.

TORONTO,

Tuesday, 11th June, 1850, 7 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod was constituted with prayer and praise.

The Minutes of the former Session were read.

Mr. McMurray and Mr. Weylie, gave in reasons of dissent from the deliverance of the Synod, for petitioning for the abolition of the Clergy Reserves and Rectories. The same were read, and it was agreed that they be entered in the book of dissents.

The Synod took up the reference from the Presbytery of Hamilton, respecting the Congregation of Caledonia. Several members addressed the house, when on the motion of Dr. Willis, seconded by Mr. McDowell, it was agreed,

That the Moderator, Dr. Burns, Mr. Harris, Mr. Ball, Mr. McMurray, Mr. McLeod, Mr. McKenzie, ministers; Mr. Osborne, Mr. McLellan, Mr. Blain, elders, be appointed as a Commission of Synod, to visit the Congregation of Caledonia, and they are authorised to meet with the minister, session, and congregation there, to inquire into the evils alleged to be existing there to the hindrance of unity, mutual confidence, and edification; authorise them to act with the usual powers of a Synodical Court of review; and if they fail in their endeavours to establish harmony in consistency with the finding of the recent commission, as authenticated by this Synod, power is hereby granted to proceed to final judgment according to the laws of the Church, notwithstanding any appeals that may be attempted to be taken from their finding. If they see cause for libel, they shall commit the procedure into the hands of the Presbytery of Hamilton, who are empowered, assisted by the Committee, or any three of their number, to proceed to a judgment in the case, staying, nevertheless, a final sentence in the case of appeals.

The Synod took up an Overture from Mr. McMurray, and other members, to the following tenor:—

That whereas the Commission of Synod is not necessary for the effective carrying out the business of this Church, and whereas a *pro re nata* meeting of Synod is much better adapted to the state of this Church, and would more satisfactorily accomplish the ends of the Commission—it is hereby humbly overtured that this Synod cease to appoint the Commission as a Court of this Church.

The Synod, after deliberation, agreed to sustain the Overture, and refer the same to Presbyteries, with instructions to them to report to the next meeting of Synod, with a view to a final decision in the matter—the Commission for the ensuing year to have only one meeting.

Dr. Willis, on behalf of the Committee on Baptism, submitted a draft, containing statements of principles and directions in regard to the administration of that ordinance: when, after consideration of the same, the following deliverance was adopted:—

The Synod sustain the draft on Baptism—appoint it to be printed in the *Record*, with a view to its wide circulation, and enjoin ministers and missionaries to read it to their congregations on some early Sabbath, after divine service—and enjoin further, that Ministers and Sessions attend to its recommendations, as far as may be practicable.

The Report of the Committee on the Book of Discipline was received and sustained, and after deliberation, the Synod agreed

That the Committee be re-appointed, that they should meet at an early day and agree on a plan of a Book, and distribute the different sections or parts of it amongst themselves, or allot them to other members of the Synod, that they may be filled up, and the whole combined into one book, for being submitted to the next meeting of Synod.

The Synod was closed with the blessing.

SESSION XIV.

TORONTO,

Wednesday, 12th June, 1850, *Ten o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod, after engaging in Devotional Exercises, was constituted for business.

The minutes of the former Session were read and sustained.

A motion being made, and seconded, that the Commission of Visitation to the Congregation of Caledonia, be enlarged by the addition of the names of Mr. Gordon, minister; Mr. Heron, Mr. Barclay, elders, it was decided that such addition should not be made—thirty-one voting against the addition, seven voting for it, and four not voting.

The Synod had lengthened Conference on the subjects of Union and the Standards, when it was moved by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Dr. Burns,

That the Synod considering that great diversity of views exists among the office-bearers and members of this Church, respecting the true meaning of certain passages in the Confession of Faith, bearing on the Powers of the Civil Magistrate; and more particularly of chapters xx. and xxiii, sec. 3; considering that such diversity has of late been creating difficulties in the way of Office-bearers, Candidates for License, and Probationers for Ordination, signing our Formula in as far as it relates to this particular subject; considering that the continuance of this state of things has a tendency to endanger the internal union of our Church, to deprive it of the benefit of the labours of many pious and gifted persons, who are deeply attached to all the essential principles of our Church and its Standards, and also to prevent and impede the progress of the Church in this country; the Synod do

therefore hereby appoint a Committee to take these chapters of the Confession of Faith under their careful consideration, with a view to determine what can safely be done to remove these difficulties, and to report their views, and the result of their deliberations to the next Synod.

It was moved in amendment by Dr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Bayne,

That the Synod having considered the Overture, declare their continued sense of the excellence of their subordinate standards, and of the importance of those parts thereof, which affirm the duty of the civil magistrate to recognise the Christian light where it shines, and to support and encourage the Christian truth in contradistinction to demoralizing error; and consider, that many of the exceptions taken to those portions of our standards originate in needless misapprehensions of the sense in which the said doctrinal articles have, all along been held by the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and which has already by this Church itself been explained in the testimonies it has issued and its recorded resolutions: That the Synod therefore cannot contemplate with much hope, the issue of their labours, in any further attempt that this Synod might make to satisfy the alleged scruples of candidates for admission to office, or the calls made for explanation by those who after vows, have made inquiry: But inasmuch as some of the parties pressing for this, declare generally that their object is not to change or alter the received standards, but in the *bona fide* sense of the term to have enunciated in other words the doctrine referred to: The Synod appoint a committee to consider whether any exegetical or declaratory note may be appended to the question in the formula respecting the Confession of Faith proposed to candidates for office; but hereby strictly limit the powers of the committee to said design.

Further, in reference to any case that may already have come before Presbyteries, of candidates for spiritual office seeking relief to their alleged conscientious scruples, in the way of being allowed to give a qualified assent to the said portion of our confession: The Synod, feel that it will be as inconvenient for Presbyteries themselves, as perilous to the public testimony maintained by this Church, to allow an absolute power of discretion to local judicatories: The Synod do, however, in the spirit of candid consideration, allow the Presbytery before which such case may occur, having first assured themselves of the attachment of the candidate to the doctrines of this Church in general, and to its testimony for the headship of Christ over nations as well as the Church, to transmit to the committee to be appointed as aforesaid, a particular statement of the circumstances; and if said committee, or a majority thereof, shall be satisfied to the same effect concerning said candidate, or applicant for license or ordination, the assent of such individuals, may be accepted with an accompanying explanation; so that the difficulties alleged, being of the kind herein exclusively referred to, shall not hinder their license or appointment to offices within this Church.

After discussion, a vote was taken, when there voted for the motion, 11; for the amendment, 29; declined voting, 3.

The amendment was accordingly declared to be carried, and the following Committee were appointed for carrying it out, viz:—

The Moderator, Dr. Willis, Mr. Gale, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Robb, Mr. Harris, Mr. McMurray, Mr. Roger, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Stark, ministers; Mr. Davidson, Mr. Ferrier, Mr. McLellan, Mr. Elder, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Clark, elders; Dr. Willis and Mr. Gale to be Conveners.

The Synod was then closed with the blessing.

SESSION XV.

TORONTO,

12th June, 1850, *Wednesday*, 3 *o'clock*, *P.M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer.

The Minutes of the former Session were read.

The Synod took up the Petition of John Scott, Student of Divinity, setting forth that the Presbytery of Hamilton had declined admitting him to license, on account of difficulties he had in signing the Confession of Faith, without some explanation of some of the passages relating to the Civil Magistrate's qualification.

The Synod, after reasoning, agreed to refer the Petition to the Committee on the Standards; empowering them, in conjunction with the Presbytery of Hamilton, to confer with Mr. Scott, and give a deliverance in the matter, and report if practicable, before the close of the Synod.

The Synod took up the case of the Rev. Mr. Peden.

Mr. Peden read a statement of his views, in regard to the doctrines upon which he had been libelled, and found guilty of heresy by the Presbytery of London.

Various members expressed their views on the subject, when on motion made and seconded, it was agreed, that the Committee formerly appointed to consider this case, should draft a deliverance for the adoption of the Synod.

Whilst the Committee were drawing up their deliverance on the call of the Moderator, the Rev. Mr. Lindsay supplicated the Divine Blessing for direction.

Mr. Wightman, on behalf of the Committee on Statistical Returns, gave in a report which was read and sustained, and it was agreed in terms of its recommendation,

That a schedule of the returns be printed in the *Record*, under the direction of Mr. Burns, Agent, and that the alterations proposed in the heads for future returns be adopted.

Mr. Smellie, in behalf of the Committee on the scheme of a Widows' Fund, reported

That the Committee had taken no further action in carrying out a Widows' Fund Scheme, as they despair of being able to do so in any effectual way, so long as there is no general fund for the sustentation of the ministry.

The Synod after considering the report, agreed to sustain the same

And record their thanks to the Committee for the attention formerly bestowed by them on this subject, and appreciating the difficulties presently in the way of a

Widows' Fund Scheme, the Synod appoint Mr. Osborne, Mr. McLellan, Mr. Ferrier, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Blain, elders; Mr. Harris, Mr. Robb, Mr. Cheyne, Mr. McLean, ministers, Mr. Osborne to be Convener, a Committee with instructions to them to communicate with congregations through their respective office-bearers, and endeavour to interest and engage them in measures for providing for the families of ministers through Life Assurance Societies.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed

That Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, (Convener) Mr. Wightman and Mr. Gale, be a Committee for drafting an address to Her Majesty's Government, earnestly deprecating the proposed change in the law of Marriage, in Great Britain.

Mr. Bayne, in name of the Committee on Mr. Peden's case, produced a draft, and the same having been read, the Synod decerned and ordained in terms thereof.

The Synod, having considered the reference from the Presbytery of London, in the case of the Rev. Robert Peden, minister of Amherstburgh, sustain the reference, find that it is the doctrine of this Church. *First*, That "the Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he, through the Eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of His Father, and purchased not only reconciliation but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father hath given unto him." And that "to all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, He doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same." *Second*, That those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call by His word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills and by his Almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet, so, as they come most freely, being made willing in the day of His grace. That the effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from any thing at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it. *Third*, That the grace of faith whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ on their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the word; and, that the principal acts of saving faith are, accepting, receiving and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

Further, The Synod find that the said Robert Peden, holds and avows opinions at direct variance with the aforesaid doctrines, subversive of the fundamental truths of the gospel, and fitted to prove injurious to the souls of men, and, in particular, that he holds

1st. That Christ made atonement in the same sense for all mankind, thereby denying Christ's covenant relation to His people, and effectual satisfaction to justice on their behalf.

2nd. That the fallen sinner does not require a special subjective work of the Holy Spirit in his heart, to enable him to believe in Christ to the saving of his soul.

3rd. That the work of the Spirit in enabling a sinner to believe in Christ unto salvation, is the same in nature and energy, with that which takes place in the heart of a sinner, who resists the Spirit and remains in unbelief and a state of enmity towards God.

4th. That faith is a mere intellectual act, and that in a sense which is inconsistent with the doctrine, that saving faith implies a vital spiritual principle in the heart, and that its principal acts are of a moral and spiritual nature, consisting in particular of the accepting, receiving and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification and eternal life. Wherefore, and in consideration of the dangerous nature of these errors, and the necessity of preventing their publication among the people of this Church.

The Synod resolve, that the said Robert Peden be, as he hereby is, suspended from the exercise of his office as a minister of the gospel, that the pastoral relation between him and the congregation of Amherstburgh do now terminate, and be declared at an end; that the Presbytery of London be instructed, as it hereby is, to deal with him with the view of convincing him of the unscriptural and dangerous nature of the aforesaid opinions, and farther, that in the event of his refusing to submit to their authority, or persisting in propagating his errors, the Presbytery be empowered, as they now are, to depose him from the office of the Holy Ministry, notwithstanding any protest or appeal which he may make.

This deliverance was read to Mr. Peden, and the Clerk was instructed to furnish him with a copy of the same. The Presbytery of London were also allowed to have an extract of the minutes in this case, and they were instructed to declare the church at Amherstburgh, vacant, and to use their best efforts for supplying the congregation with a dispensation of divine ordinances.

The Synod then closed with the blessing.

SESSION XVI.

TORONTO,

Wednesday, 12th June, 1850, 7½ *o'clock P.M.*

The Synod met according to adjournment, and was constituted with praise and prayer.

The minutes of the afternoon session were read.

Mr. Robb, Convener of the Synod's Home Mission Committee, read the report for the past year.

After discussion, on motion made and seconded, the Synod adopted the following deliverance:—

That the report of the Home Mission Committee be sustained.

That the thanks of the Synod be given to the Convener and other members of the Committee for their diligence and zeal in the important work committed to their care.

That the recommendations contained in said report, be adopted, and in particular, that all preachers licensed, or missionaries admitted from other churches, after the meeting of Synod, shall be placed at the disposal of the Home Mission Committee, and Presbyteries are recommended to delay inducting them into pastoral charges, except in cases of urgency, until the close of the next session of Knox's College.

That the Committee be instructed to make arrangements with the Superintendent of Missions, for the proper disposal of his services so soon as he arrives in the province; and further, that they be enjoined to use all diligence in raising contributions for the Mission Fund: and that the same Committee be re-appointed for the ensuing year.

Thanks were accordingly tendered, by the Moderator, to Mr. Robb and the following Committee appointed for the ensuing year, viz:—

The Moderator, Mr. Gale, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Robb, (Convener) Dr. Willis, Mr. Harris, Mr. McMurray, Mr. Roger, Mr. Stark, ministers; Messrs. Davidson, Ferrier, McLellan, Elder, Osborne, Clark, elders.

Mr. Davidson, in behalf of the Committee on Finance, gave in a report which was read, and on motion made and seconded, the report was unanimously sustained, and the thanks of the Synod were tendered by the Moderator to Mr. Davidson, Chairman of the Committee, for the diligence bestowed in the arranging of the accounts.

Mr. King gave in a Report on the Mission to the Colored Population, which was read and sustained, and after reasoning, the following deliverance was adopted:—

The Synod record their thanks to Mr. King, for his zeal and devotedness in his work, and their resolution under the Divine blessing, to sustain and encourage the Mission to the Colored Population; instruct the Committee to be appointed, to correspond with the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, respecting the continuance of Mr. King's salary, and to represent to said Committee the favorable prospects of the Mission; and the Synod farther authorise the Presbytery of London, to take Mr. King on trials for ordination, that he may be in the full status of a minister of the Gospel.

The Committee to be Dr. Burns, (Convener,) Dr. Willis, Mr. Rintoul, Mr. Gale, Mr. Wightman, ministers; Mr. Burns, Mr. James Gibb, Mr. Osborne, Mr. McLellan, elders.

The Presbytery of Cobourg applied for leave to take Mr. William J. McKenzie, student in Divinity, on trials for license; leave was granted.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed,

That the Record Committee be authorised and instructed to print, in whole or in part, and in such form as they may deem best, the Report of the Finance Committee, and the Reports of the other Standing Committees of Synod, with a view to the circulating of the same among the members of the Church.

The Synod was closed with the blessing.

SESSION XVII.

TORONTO,

Thursday, 13th June, 1850, *Ten o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with praise and prayer.

The minutes of the former Session were read.

The Synod heard the Report of the Committee on the case of Mr. John Scott, student in Divinity.

After lengthened deliberation, it was

Agreed to refer the case to the Presbytery of Hamilton, with instructions to them to take a tender and considerate view of the conscientious scruples of Mr. Scott, regarding certain points in the xxiii. chapter of the Confession of Faith; and after due consultation with the Committee, on the Standards of the Church, and having a regard to the Synod's proceedings on Wednesday last, to bring the matter, as they are empowered to do, to an edifying conclusion, according to the best of their judgment, in the difficulties of the case.

Dr. Willis gave in the Report of the College Committee, which was read.

Mr. Gale gave in a Report from the Committee on King's College.

After deliberation, it was agreed,

That these Reports be received and sustained, and that the thanks of the Synod be given to those Committees, for the attention which they have given to the matters entrusted to them. That the College Committee be Messrs. McKenzie, Robb, Roger, Gregg, R. Boyd, Wardrope, Gordon, Starke, Gale, Bayne and Rintoul, ministers; Hon. M. Cameron, Hon. G. McDonald, Dr. Dickson, John Fraser, G. Davidson, J. Burns, W. Notman, J. Gibb, J. Redpath, J. McMurrich, S. Spreull and James Shaw, Esqrs., together with the Professors. That the Committee endeavour to get such arrangements in the University of King's College, as will answer the purposes of Knox's College. And that it be entrusted to the Committee to make such arrangements in the internal economy of Knox's College as they deem best, for the purposes of promoting its objects, and the advancement of the students in the prosecution of their studies.

The Synod took up the consideration of the draft of a bill for the incorporation of Knox's College, when after deliberation, it was agreed

To refer the same to the Presbytery of Toronto, that they may still further correspond with the Church regarding its details, and, especially with Presbyteries; with authority to said Presbytery by and with the concurrence of a majority of the other Presbyteries in the draft, or in alterations and amendments of the same, to take steps to have it passed into law.

Dr. Burns, in behalf of the Committee on Mr. McConechy's case, gave in a Report, which was read and sustained; and in terms thereof:

The Synod instruct the Presbytery of Montreal to continue their superintendence of Mr. McConechy, and to countenance him in such Evangelistic services as those in which he has been engaged at English river and North Georgetown, to correspond with the Free Presbytery of Irvine in Scotland by regarding him, and to report the result to the Commission to be hereafter appointed.

Dr. Burns gave in the Report of the Committee on Sabbath desecration, which was read.

The Synod agreed

To sustain the same; to record, as they hereby do, their thanks to the Committee, especially to Dr. Burns for the interest taken in the object of their appointment; reappoint the Committee* with instructions to them to put forth renewed exertions for counteracting and abating the prevailing sin of Sabbath profanation.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed that the Agency Committee for the ensuing year be:

* See Printed Minutes for 1849, the name of J. G. Macgregor, minister, is omitted by mistake.

The Moderator, Clerk of Synod, Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Mr. Gale, (Convener,) Mr. Robb, Mr. Wightman, ministers, with the following gentlemen in the City of Toronto, Mr. John McMurrich, Mr. James Shaw, Mr. Walter McFarlane, Mr. Samuel Spreull, Mr. James Leask, Mr. John Laidlaw, Mr. John Kay.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed,

That four collections be made in all congregations, and at mission stations, during the ensuing year, according to the following scheme, viz:—

I. French Canadian Mission, on 1st Sabbath of September.
II. Synod's Home Mission Fund, 1st Sabbath of December.
III. Synod Fund, 1st Sabbath of March.
IV. Foreign Missions, (Free Church) 1st Sabbath of June.

And Presbyteries are earnestly enjoined to use their best endeavours, aye, and until some general Synodical plan for the sustentation of the Ministry, or aid of weak congregations, be in operation—to promote and establish within their own bounds, as they may severally see fit, funds for the sustentation of the ministry, or for the aid of weak congregations, and report to the next meeting of Synod.

The Synod appointed the following members to be their Commission for the ensuing year, to attend to the matters referred to them, and watch over the general interests of the Church, viz:

The Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Messrs. Mackenzie, McColl. Robb, Bayne, Stark, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Messrs. Gale, McLeod, Roger, Smith, Burns, Gregg, Boyd, McMurray, Wardrope, Duncan, and Henry, ministers, and Messrs. Allen, McLellan, Clark, Osborne, Davidson. Blain, Alex. Gibb, Wallace, Weylie, Hall, Harstone, Fife, Hon. J. McDonald. Stewart, Redpath and Hettrick, elders.

The Commission to meet in Toronto, on the 16th day of October, at 12 o'clock, noon.

The Synod agreed

To record their thanks to the friends in Toronto, for the Christian hospitality received at their hands by the ministers and elders of the Synod, during the meeting in Toronto, and specially to H. Miller, A. McGlashan, John Laidlaw, and Walter Macfarlane, Esquires, for their devising and carrying out arrangements by which that hospitality had been made available.

The Synod further resolved

That their cordial thanks be tendered to Dr. Burns, the minister, and to the elders and trustees of Knox's Church, for the comfortable accommodation enjoyed by the Synod, in that Church, during its present sessions.

Business being finished. the Moderator briefly addressed the Synod. After prayer, and singing a part of the cxxii. Psalm, the Moderator announced that the next meeting of Synod would be held at Kingston. on the first Wednesday of June next, at Eleven o'clock, A.M.

At Three o'clock, P.M,, the Synod was closed with the apostolical benediction.

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THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

AT ITS SESSIONS AT KINGSTON,

JUNE 4-11, 1851.

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